

1. A user input device comprising:
means for producing a highlight for highlighting any one of the icons in an arrangement of icons, the arrangement having a first portion comprising a first plurality of icons and a second portion comprising at least one icon;
a user input comprising a directional control for user actuation and a selection control for user actuation; and
control means arranged to change the position of the highlight in response to user actuation of the directional control, to select an icon of the second portion of the arrangement in response to user actuation of the selection control when the icon is highlighted and to select automatically an icon of the first portion in response to the highlighting of the icon.
2. A user input device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first portion is a peripheral portion of the arrangement and the second portion is a non-peripheral portion of the arrangement.
3. A user input device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the control means is arranged to change the position of the highlight from one icon to another in response to each user actuation of the directional control.
4. A user input device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the control means is arranged to move the highlight, after selection of an icon, to a “home” icon of the second portion of the arrangement of icons.
5. A user input device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the arrangement of icons comprises an N row by M column array of icons and the “home” icon is located in the central row(s) of the array and/or the central column(s) of the array.
6. A user input device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the arrangement comprises an N row by M column array of icons, the directional control allows 4-way movement of the highlight, in response to a user actuation, to an icon in an

adjacent row but the same column or in an adjacent column but the same row, and the first plurality of icons are either in the first row and last row of the array or are in the first column and last column of the array.

7. A user input device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the arrangement comprises an N row by M column array of icons, the directional control allows multi-way movement of the highlight, in response to a user actuation, to an adjacent icon, and the first plurality of icons are those in the first and last rows of the array and those in the first and last columns of the array.

8. A user input device as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a display for displaying the arrangement of icons and the highlight.

9. A user input device as claimed in claim 8 further comprising means for determining from the identity of the preceding selected icon(s) of an input sequence those icons which will not be selected for the remainder of the input sequence and removing them from the display.

10. A user input device as claimed in claim 1, further comprising means for selecting different alphanumeric characters in response to the repetitive selection of an icon a different number of times.

11. A user input device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the arrangement of icons represents a 3 column keyboard or keyboard portion or a 3 row keyboard or keyboard portion with each icon representing a key of the keyboard or keyboard portion.

12. A method of user input by selecting an icon from an arrangement of icons, the arrangement having a first portion comprising a first plurality of icons and a second portion comprising at least one icon, comprising the steps of:

highlighting one icon at a time;

selecting an icon of the first portion by highlighting it; and

selecting an icon of the second portion by highlighting it and then

actuating an input device.

13. A method of user input as claimed in claim 12, wherein the first portion is a peripheral portion of the arrangement and the second portion is a non-peripheral portion of the arrangement.

14. A method of user input as claimed in claim 12 further comprising the step of moving

the highlight to a centrally located “home” icon after selecting an icon.

15. A method of user input as claimed in claim 14, wherein the arrangement of icons comprises an N row by M column array of icons and the “home” icon is located in the central row(s) of the array and/or the central column(s) of the array.

16. A method as claimed in claim 12, wherein the arrangement comprises an N row by M column array of icons and the first plurality of icons are either in the first row and last row of the array or are in the first column and last column of the array.

17. A method as claimed in claim 12, wherein the arrangement comprises an N row by M column array of icons and the first plurality of icons are those in the first and last rows of the array and those in the first and last columns of the array.

18. A method as claimed in claim 12 further comprising the steps of:
displaying the arrangement of icons on a display and
displaying a highlight on the display to highlight an icon.

19. A method as claimed in claim 18 further comprising the step of altering the icons displayed in dependence on the icons previously selected.

20. A method as claimed in claim 12 further comprising the step of:

repeatedly selecting an icon a different number of times to input a different alphanumeric character.

21. A mobile communications device comprising an input device as claimed in claim 1.

22. A user input device comprising:

a user input comprising a directional control for user actuation and a selection control for user actuation; and

means arranged to produce a highlight for highlighting any one of the icons of an arrangement of icons, the arrangement having a first portion comprising a first plurality of icons and a second portion comprising at least one icon and arranged to change the position of the highlight in response to user actuation of the directional control, wherein a highlighted icon

is selected without user actuation of the selection control if the highlighted icon is an icon of the first portion and is selected in response to user actuation of the selection control if the highlighted icon is an icon of the second portion.

23. A user input device comprising:

means for producing a highlight for highlighting any one of the icons of an arrangement of icons;

a user input; and

control means arranged to select a highlighted icon and to move the highlight from one icon to another in response to actuation of the user input and arranged to automatically move the highlight, after selection of an icon, to a "home" icon centrally located in the arrangement of icons.

24. A user input device as claimed in claim 23, wherein the "home" icon is positioned within the arrangement of icons such that the average travelling distance of the highlight for selecting the next icon is minimised.

25. A user input device as claimed in claim 23 wherein the arrangement of

icons comprises an N row by M column array of icons and the “home” icon is located in the central row(s) of the array and/or the central column(s) of the array.

26. A user input device as claimed in claim 23 wherein the control means is arranged to select first ones of the arrangement of icons automatically when they are highlighted.

27. A user input device as claimed in claim 23 wherein the control means is arranged to select highlighted icons in response to user actuation of the user input.

28. A method of user input by selecting an icon from an arrangement of icons, comprising the steps of:

highlighting one icon at a time; and

selecting a highlighted icon and then moving the highlight to a centrally located “home” icon.

29. A user input device comprising:

a display;

means for producing an arrangement of icons on the display;

a user input; and

control means arranged to select an icon in response to the user input and arranged to change the arrangement of icons in response to the user input.

30. A user input device as claimed in claim 29, wherein the control means is arranged to scroll an arrangement of icons across the display in response to the user input.

31. A user input device as claimed in claim 29 wherein the arrangement of icons is a typist keyboard or a portion of a typist keyboard.

32. A user input device as claimed in claim 29 further comprising means for producing a highlight for highlighting any one of the icons in the displayed arrangement of icons wherein the control means is arranged to change the position of the highlight in response to the user input and wherein changing the displayed arrangement of icons is achieved by moving the highlight to a predetermined position.